(b) if so, what alternative plans have been or are being drawn up by the Ministry to allot time to private producers for programme on the new Satellite Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have preferred an appeal in the Supreme Court of India against the said judgement. The software for the channels is presently being obtained by Doordarshan through its established methods viz. in-house productions, sponsored and commissioned programmes etc.

Boradcast/Telecast of Tamil Programmes

112. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps to broadcast/telecast Tamil years, months and dates during broadcasts/ telecasts in Tamil programmes over all India Radio and Doordarshan?:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): There is no such proposal.

विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों और उपग्रह दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से पश्चिमी संस्कृति का आधिपत्य

113. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विदेशी उपग्रह दूरदर्शन और विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों के भारत में उन्मुक्त प्रवेश से पश्चिमी संस्कृति और पश्चिम की विचारधारा के आधिपत्य के खतरे की संभावना है; और

(ख) इस खतरे को रोकने और उसका मुकाबला करने से संबंध में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री के॰ पी॰ सिंह देव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) यद्यपि, विदेशी समाचार एजेंसियों को भारत में सीधे परिचालन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाती है तथापि विदेशी उपग्रह ट्रांसमीशन पर हमारा कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है। इसी बीच राष्ट्रीय तथा क्षेत्रीय स्तरों पर प्रमुखतः भारतीय कार्यक्रमों की हितकारी सामग्री उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए दूरदर्शन चैनलों के कार्यक्रमों की पुनःसंरचना की गई है जिससे कि इसके दर्शकों की रुचि को बनाया रखा जा सके।"

Rationalisation of Entertainment tax

114. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided recently to rationalise the entertainment Tax structure soon;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons due to which regional films are exempted from 'Entertaiment Tax'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Constituion vide Entry No. 62 of the State list provides complete powers to state government in the matter of levy of entertainment tax for exhibition of films. The Central Government do not have any statutory powers to issue directions to them in this regard.

Efficiency of PIB

115. DR. SHRIKANT . RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to slate:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the Press Information Bureau being modernised and computerised, its efficiency has not improved at all;

(b) the reasons for which the important Government news reach the newspapers faster through news agencies than through PIB;